

AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



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*Augusta County Historical Society salutes Stuart Hall on
the observance of its 125th anniversary.*

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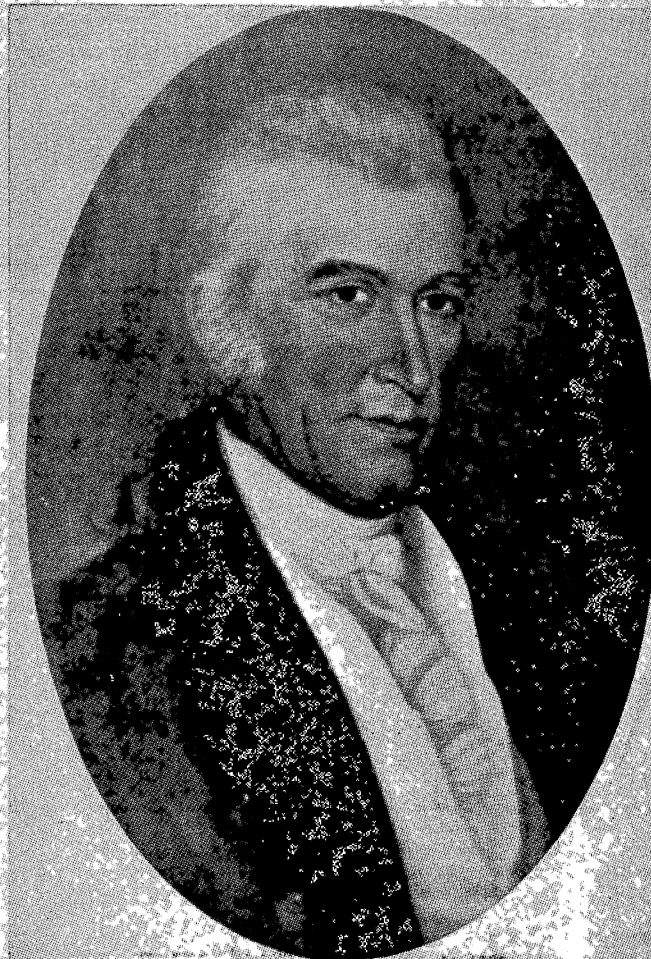
LIST of MEMBERS.

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$1.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual)	\$5.00
Annual (family)	\$8.00
Annual (sustaining)	\$25.00
Life Membership	\$100.00
Annual (Institutional)	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

THE FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE
1809-1831



ARCHIBALD STUART

A charter member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, organized at William and Mary College December 5, 1776.

"Some Memories" by Joseph A. Glasgow

JUDGE ARCHIBALD STUART

That branch of the "Stewart" family from which Judge Archibald Stuart descended was originally seated in Scotland. His progenitors, however, emigrated to Ireland during the reign of James I of England (James VI of Scotland) and settled in or near Londonderry in County Ulster. They were staunch Presbyterians and in their new home held firmly to that persuasion.

The name Stewart was always spelled Stewart until Mary Stewart married the Dauphin of France. There being no letter in the French alphabet corresponding to the English W, the French were compelled to change the spelling to Stuart, and that spelling was afterward extensively adopted in England and America.

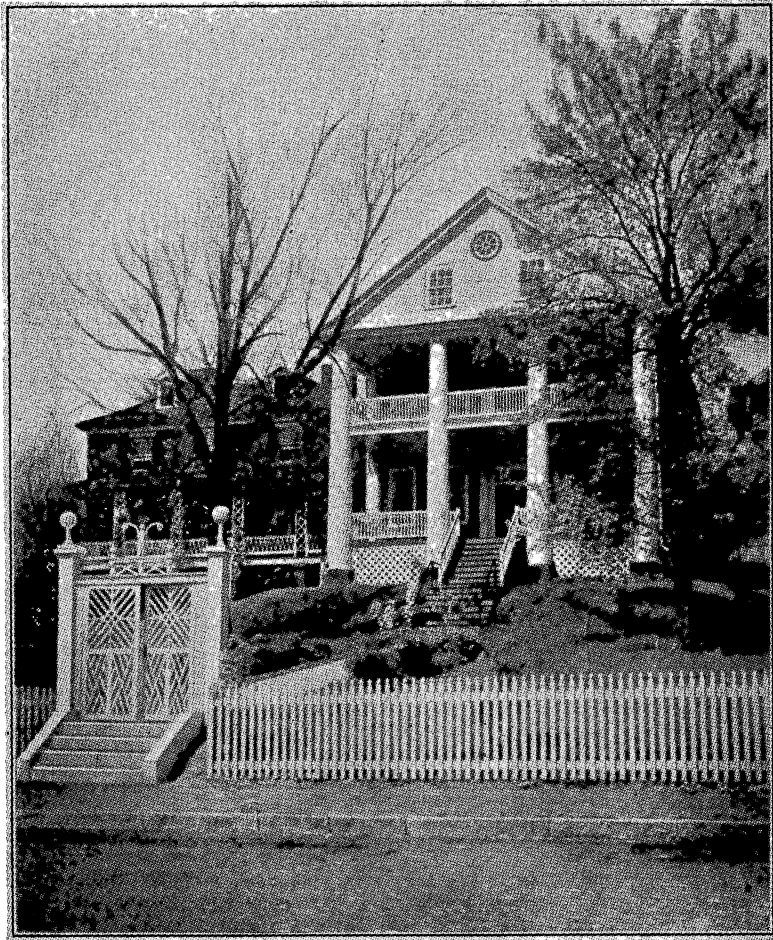
The first member of the Stuart family who came to America was Archibald Stuart, the grandfather of Judge Archibald Stuart. Archibald Stuart, the immigrant, was a young Scotch-Irishman of respectable family, who was born about the latter part of the 17th century and lived in or near Londonderry. He was a man of good education, as evidenced by his will, written by himself, now in the clerk's office of Augusta County. He was a man of intelligence, deep religious convictions and great energy of character. He was a Presbyterian, as was Janet Brown whom he married in Ireland.

About 1725-26 persecution of Presbyterians and other dissenters in Ireland became so intolerable that Archibald Stuart and others actively promoted an insurrection to defend their rights. The military power of the government was invoked to suppress the insurrection, and Archibald Stuart and others were proscribed. If he could have been arrested he would have been executed for treason.

He fled for his life, and contrived to get aboard a ship bound for America, leaving his wife and two children in Ireland. He reached America in safety and took refuge in Western Pennsylvania, where he remained in concealment seven years. An act of amnesty finally enabled him to send for his wife and children, who in 1732 joined him in Pennsylvania where they remained another seven years. Two sons, Alexander and Benjamin, were born during that time.

Beginning with Archibald Stuart, the Immigrant, the names Archibald and Alexander alternated in the Stuart family for five successive generations.

After assurance by Governor Gooch of Virginia in 1738 of



"Stuart House", the home of Judge Archibald Stuart,
Church St., Staunton, Virginia

From "A Historic Virginia Home"
Armistead C. Gordon

freedom of religious opinion and worship to immigrants who would move to the Valley of Virginia and protect the western frontier of Virginia against incursions of the Indians, Archibald Stuart moved with his family to Virginia in 1738 or 1739. He settled in Augusta County about two miles southwest of Waynesboro, where he continued to reside until his death in 1761.

His home was afterwards known as the Pratt Farm. A residential subdivision is now being developed there, but the original old brick house with its outbuildings on the Greenville Road is still standing.

Archibald Stuart, the immigrant, being a sagacious business man, acquired large and valuable tracts of land, among them Stuart's Draft and other property. This enabled him to live in comfort and to give his children the best opportunities for education which the circumstances would allow.

Alexander Stuart, the second son of the immigrant, was born in Pennsylvania in 1733 or 1734. When four years of age he was brought by his parents to Augusta County where he was reared to manhood. He received a common school education. His letters show that he wrote and spelled correctly and that he was versed in the simpler branches of mathematics. He was a man of tall stature and great strength. He lived in Augusta County, but also resided on occasion in what is now Rockbridge County and in what is now Monroe County, West Virginia, both of which were carved from Augusta County. He was twice married. His first wife, whom he married when he was twenty years of age, was Mary Patterson, the daughter of a Scotch-Irish neighbor.

In 1749 Augusta Academy, the first classical school west of the Blue Ridge, was established about two miles southwest of Greenville. Later it was moved to a site near Old Providence Church, and still later to Point Pleasant near Fairfield. In 1776 its name was changed to Liberty Hall Academy.

Alexander Stuart had four sons to educate and took an active part in causing Liberty Hall Academy to be removed from its location near Fairfield to a point near Timber Ridge Church, much nearer his home. To that end he and his neighbor, Samuel Houston (the father of President Samuel Houston of Texas), each offered the trustees forty acres of land and liberal contributions in money. The offers were accepted and the Academy was transferred to the new location. Alexander Stuart was one of the original trustees of Liberty Hall Academy, later Washington

College, now Washington and Lee University.

The sons of Alexander Stuart were educated at Liberty Hall Academy.

Archibald, the oldest son, afterward Judge Archibald Stuart, was born March 19, 1757, at the family homestead near Waynesboro. While a pupil at Liberty Hall Academy, he exhibited a strong thirst for knowledge and more than ordinary capacity to acquire it. He made known to his father his wish to adopt the law as his profession. His wish being approved, his father determined to send him to William and Mary College to obtain the best education that could then be had in Virginia. He accordingly went to William and Mary in the fall of 1778, and continued there until 1781. During a large portion of his sojourn at college he was an inmate of the family of Bishop Madison, the president of the College.

According to Hugh Blair Grigsby, Archibald Stuart was conspicuous among outstanding students. His personal appearance and his address, as well as his accurate scholarship, contributed to his popularity. His erect and sinewy form (he was more than 6' 2" in height), his placid face and expressive dark eyes, his long black hair flowing about his neck, the blended austerity and gentleness of his deportment, presented to his young associates one of the finest types of the western Virginian.

He was one of the founders and vice president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and was custodian of the Society's seal. In the spring of 1781 the southern Colonies being overrun by Cornwallis, Archibald Stuart left College and volunteered as a private in the militia regiment from Rockbridge. The assumption is that he took the Phi Beta Kappa seal with him for safe-keeping. Many years after his death it was found by his son Alexander H. H. Stuart in a secret drawer of Archibald Stuart's secretary in the Stuart home in Staunton. The Society was then extinct at William and Mary, and Mr. Stuart forwarded the seal to the College. The seal has since disappeared a second time, and is believed to have been destroyed when the library at William and Mary burned in 1859.

When Archibald Stuart left William and Mary the militia troops from the Valley and Southwest Virginia had been called into service and ordered to proceed to North Carolina and join the Army under General Greene near Guilford Court House. Among the troops was the regiment of which Colonel Samuel McDowell, a gallant and distinguished officer, was in command,

and Major Alexander Stuart, the father of Archibald Stuart, was second in command. Colonel McDowell was a man of high character, a brave and experienced officer, but before the battle of Guilford Court House he had an attack of malaria that unfitted him for active service in the field, whereupon the command of the regiment devolved upon Major Stuart. The regiment was stationed at a point particularly exposed to the fire of the British artillery, but the men fought with the steadiness of veterans. They suffered greatly.

Major Stuart, according to every account, conducted himself with great gallantry. Two horses were killed under him during the battle. The first was killed in an early stage of the engagement, but he promptly mounted another horse and resumed command. At a later period in the battle, a shell exploded so near him that the fragments killed the horse on which he was mounted and inflicted a severe wound upon himself. Thus disabled, and his horse having fallen on him, he was compelled to lie helpless on the field, where he was stripped of his uniform by the enemy and made prisoner. He was sent to a British hospital where his wound was properly attended. When he was well enough to be moved, he was transferred with other prisoners to one of the prison ships on the coast, where he was detained for more than six months, when he regained his liberty by an exchange of prisoners. Meanwhile, the situation had materially changed. The surrender of Cornwallis soon followed, and active hostilities ceased.

In the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Archibald Stuart, who was then a volunteer aide to General Greene, fought gallantly in the ranks.

Archibald Stuart spent the greater part of the next two years in the study of law under Thomas Jefferson, probably at Monticello. Jefferson was ever thereafter, so long as he lived, a revered adviser and friend. Archibald Stuart named his oldest son Thomas Jefferson Stuart.

When Archibald Stuart completed his course of study under Jefferson, he returned to the residence of his father, then living in Rockbridge County, to confer with the senior Stuart and others as to his future settlement in life. It was thought advisable for him to become a candidate for a seat in the House of Delegates at the election which was then near at hand. He accordingly became a candidate. The election was held on the first Monday in April, 1783, and Archibald Stuart was defeated by a majority

of thirteen votes. Tuesday that same week, at the request of his father, he went to Botetourt County to close certain business his father had with Colonel George Skillern, who resided on James River about two miles above Pattonsburg. Stuart proceeded to the Skillern residence, concluded his business and was about to return home when he received an earnest invitation from Colonel Skillern to remain and attend a barbecue to be held at Pattonsburg that Friday. He consented and in the company with his host attended the barbecue.

During the course of the barbecue a toast was proposed to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War which had recently ended. Stuart was called upon to respond. This he did in a manner so acceptable to those present that they began to make inquiries regarding him. Hearing that on Monday of that week he had been defeated as a candidate for the House of Delegates from Rockbridge, someone suggested that he run as a delegate from Botetourt, at the election to be held the following Monday. The suggestion was favorably received, and a committee was then and there appointed to wait on him and submit the proposition to him. This was done and he at once declined, stating among other reasons, that he was not a freeholder in Botetourt, and was therefore ineligible. Colonel Skillern promptly and generously met that objection by proposing to convey to him a small house and lot he owned in Fincastle. Yielding at last to the importunities of those present, Archibald Stuart consented to become a candidate from Botetourt, and Colonel Skillern executed the necessary deed to make him a freeholder. He remained with Colonel Skillern until the following Monday, when he went to Fincastle, declared himself a candidate, addressed the people from the Hustings, and was duly elected a delegate from Botetourt.

The deed from Colonel Skillern was afterward forgotten, and Colonel Skillern sold the property. It was only after the death of Archibald Stuart that the deed came to light, and Alexander H. H. Stuart, the executor of Archibald Stuart, then executed a deed of release to clear title to the property.

In 1783 Archibald Stuart moved to Staunton and, through diligence and energy, soon acquired a large law practice. In addition to his "home practice" in Augusta, and practically every other county in the Valley, he was a regular attendant on what were then called the "district courts" held at New London, Abingdon, Sweet Springs, Harrisonburg and elsewhere.

He represented Botetourt in the General Assembly in the winter of 1783-84, and was re-elected and served the same county in the sessions of 1784-85 and 1785-86.

In 1786 he was elected and served as a delegate from Augusta County, and he was re-elected from Augusta and served in 1787.

In 1788 he was elected a member of the convention of Virginia which ratified the Constitution of the United States.

According to Hugh Blair Grigsby, in 1870 there was still the recollection of an uncommonly tall young man with long dark hair, and dark eyes who wrestled manfully and sustained Madison against the opponents of the Virginia Statue for Religious Liberty.

As the friend of Jefferson and Madison, and as a leader of the Jeffersonian Republicans in the State, he was an influential member of the General Assembly during the formative period between the Revolution and the organization of the new national government in 1789. He championed such measures, in addition to the Statute for Religious Liberty, as the reform of the state court system, the payment of British debts, the opening of the James River for navigation, the rejection of paper money, and the reorganization of the federal and state governments.

A single fact will show the zeal which he displayed in securing the adoption of the Constitution. Learning only a day before the election that the candidates for the convention from Botetourt would be chosen without a specific pledge to vote for the ratification of the Constitution, he mounted his horse and rode night and day, a distance of some 75 miles until he reached the court house of that County. The poll was then already opened, but he sought an intermission of the voting until he could address the people upon the impolicy of sending uncommitted delegates to the convention, and such was the effect of his speech that the voters exacted from the candidates a pledge to sustain the Constitution, which they faithfully redeemed.

He was an aggressive advocate of constitutional reforms, not achieved until the middle of the nineteenth century, aimed at redressing the inequalities of representation in the Virginia General Assembly between the eastern and western sections of the State.

Among his papers there are drafts and copies of petitions calling for constitutional conventions, and a copy, in his handwriting, of the highly important proposed revision of the Vir-

ginia Constitution which Jefferson drafted in 1783.

Archibald Stuart was probably the second youngest member of the Convention of 1788, as he had barely completed his thirty-first year when he took his seat in it. There he was brought into association with Edmund Pendleton, President of the Convention, Patrick Henry, George Mason, James Madison, Edmund Randolph, John Marshall, James Monroe, George Nicholas, and many other distinguished men of Virginia with whom he developed a warm friendship which lasted during their lives.

In the presence of men like those, who had inaugurated and conducted the movement for independence, he very properly declined to participate in the debates. He was content to remain an attentive listener to those who were justly regarded as the Fathers of the Republic.

Years later, James Monroe, on the eve of going abroad, came to Staunton, and while in town asked Judge Stuart whether there was any commission he would like to have executed by him while he was in Europe. Judge Stuart replied that he would like very much to have a Swiss watch, and Mr. Monroe undertook to purchase one for him. In fact he planned to get one for himself.

On his return, he came by to deliver the watch, and told Judge Stuart he was somewhat embarrassed, but hoped his long-time friend would not object to having the name James Monroe in the watch he had ordered for him. It was a mistake on the part of the watchmaker.

It was not uncommon at that time for a gentleman to wear two watches, one in each waistcoat pocket with a chain between them which was fastened in the middle to a waistcoat button. One watch was checked against the other for accuracy.

Mr. Monroe had ordered his watch to be marked with his name, and since the two watches were exactly alike the watchmaker had put the same name in both of them. And so for the rest of his life Judge Stuart carried a watch marked "James Monroe."

After the close of the Convention of 1788, Archibald Stuart declined re-election to any public office in order that he might devote his entire time to his profession.

On the 4th of May, 1791, he married Eleanor Briscoe, daughter of Colonel Gerard Briscoe of Frederick County, Virginia. The plan of his home, now called "Stuart House", was drawn by Jefferson, who was a frequent visitor there, and one

bedroom has always been known as Mr. Jefferson's room. The fine old home on Church Street is occupied now by Archibald Stuart's descendants.

On June 26, 1794, Jefferson wrote Stuart from Monticello: ". . . Now settled at home as a farmer I shall hope you will never pass without calling, and that you will make this your headquarters whenever you visit the neighborhood."

Before Stuart House was built the present cottage in the yard was a three-room, brick-nogged house, and Archibald Stuart and his wife lived there briefly until they occupied Stuart House. In after years the old house in the yard was used by Archibald Stuart as his law office. The office has long since been altered, but it is still known as the Office.

In 1797 Archibald Stuart took his seat as a member of the Senate of Virginia, and he was subsequently chosen Speaker of the Senate.

On January 13, 1800, while a member of that body, he was elected Judge of the General Court of Virginia, the highest court in the Commonwealth, and shortly thereafter he entered upon the duties of his office. He was eligible for service throughout the Commonwealth, but he usually held court in Augusta, Rockingham, Rockbridge and Pendleton Counties. When attending court in Albemarle County he was a frequent visitor at Monticello, and on one occasion Jefferson wrote him:

"No special invitation can be necessary to satisfy you that you are a welcome guest here at all times and all hours. Whenever your Court rises at 3 o'clock, you can get here to our dinner; but at that or at any other day or hour convenient to yourself, we shall always be glad to see you. Ever and affectionately yours."

Judge Stuart continued to serve until 1831 when, having attained the age of seventy-four years he declined re-election.

Though a judge of the General Court, Archibald Stuart was a Washington elector in 1793; a Jefferson elector in 1800 and 1804; a Madison elector in 1808 and 1812; a Monroe elector in 1816 and 1820; a Crawford elector in 1824; and an Adams elector in 1828.

In 1816 at the request of William Wirt, who was then writing his life of Patrick Henry, Judge Stuart wrote Wirt describing the extraordinary effect of Patrick Henry's eloquence

in the Virginia legislature about the year 1784 when Judge Stuart was present as a member of that body.

A bill designed to revamp the finances of the Commonwealth had been introduced in the House and referred to a committee of the whole. The bill was advocated and opposed by the ablest men in the House. It was opposed by Patrick Henry, and in this connection Judge Stuart wrote in part:

"The advocates of the bill in committee of the whole house used their utmost efforts and were successful in conforming it to their views by such a majority (say 30) as seemed to insure its passage. When the Committee rose the bill was instantly reported to the house; when Mr. Henry who had been excited & roused by his recent defeat came forward again in all the majesty of his power. For sometime after he commenced speaking the countenances of his opponents indicated no apprehension of danger to their cause.

"The feelings of the speaker (Mr. Pendleton) which were sometimes warm could not on that occasion be concealed in the Chair his countenance was forbidding even repulsive & his face turned from the speaker, Mr. Tazewell was reading a pamphlet and Mr. Page was more than usually grave. After some time however it was discoverable that Mr. Tyler's countenance gradually began to relax he would occasionally look at him, sometimes smile, his attention by degrees became more fixed, at length it became completely so, he next appeared to be in good humour he leaned towards Mr. H appeared charmed and delighted and finally lost in wonder & amazement the progress of these feelings were legible in his countenance. Mr. Tazewell laid down his pamphlet and shook his sides with laughter. The gravity of Mr. Page was even affected, & a corresponding change of countenance and temper prevailed through the ranks of the advocates of the bill and you might discover that they had surrendered their cause — In this they were not disappointed for on a division Mr. H. had a majority of upwards of 30 against the Bill."

Judge Stuart took great interest in the cause of education and was one of the original corporators and trustees of Washington College. He was also instrumental in establishing the Staunton Academy, having given to it a contribution in money and the lot on which the two-story brick building with a portico

supported by white pillars stood at the northeast corner of Academy and New Streets.

One of the family stories is that when Judge Stuart's son Sandy was a boy attending the Academy, he left his father in the office one cold morning and hurried off to school without shutting the door. Judge Stuart sent his colored servant to the Academy to summon the boy home immediately. Sandy thought something terrible must have happened. When he reported short-winded to his father in the office, Judge Stuart said, "Sandy, shut that door, and go back to school."

On another occasion when Mr. Jefferson was visiting Judge Stuart's home the Judge, hoping to interest his boys in Mr. Jefferson's conversation, told them to listen attentively to Mr. Jefferson, and if they could detect him in a grammatical error he would give them each a shilling.

The boys hung upon the words of their elders with an interest so intense that even Mr. Jefferson was gratified, when suddenly they sprang forward exclaiming, "There, Father, we won it! He said 't' other'!" That was the period when children should be seen and not heard, but Judge Stuart told the incident to Mr. Jefferson and he was highly amused. He then went on to justify his use of "'t'other" as grammatically correct, but told Judge Stuart the boys deserved the reward as good listeners. They got their shillings.

While at the Bar Judge Stuart was eminent as a land lawyer. As a judge he exhibited sound and discriminating judgment. He performed his duties with acknowledged ability and faithfulness, and, though somewhat stern in appearance while on the bench, he was of kindly and genial disposition. Aided by an able bar, he arrived generally at just conclusions in the cases that came before him.

He possessed a discriminating taste in letters and, such was his reputation in mathematics, that early in life he was tendered the professorship in mathematics at William and Mary College. In 1795 he served as one of three Commissioners to run the dividing line between Virginia and Kentucky; and in 1818 he was one of the Commissioners who met with Jefferson at the tavern in Rockfish Gap and determined the site of the University of Virginia.

In a long and intimate correspondence, Jefferson and Archibald Stuart discussed, among other things, the sale of books from Jefferson's law library; proposed clock repair work at Monticello

by a watch and clock mender from Staunton; sale in Staunton of nails manufactured at Monticello; purchase for Jefferson of a good bearskin, dressed with a soft skin, and the hair on; identification of the bones of a prehistoric animal; appointment of a marshall for the western district of Virginia, and in one letter Jefferson thanked Stuart for a cask of timothy seed and a very excellent parcel of butter.

In his letters Jefferson signed himself variously "your affectionate friend", "your affectionate friend and servant", "ever and affectionately yours", and "always affectionately yours."

Jefferson presented to Stuart various books, including volumes from his law library. He also presented to him a pair of Sheraton card tables, and in making him the gift of a Chinese gong he wrote:

"You will receive a gong by the first conveyance. It is but fair reciprocity to give me an opportunity of gratifying you sometimes, and to prove by accepting this, that my repeated intrusions on you have not been too troublesome. It is a great satisfaction to know that the object will be acceptable to you. With every wish for your happiness, I am dear Sir,

"Your affectionate friend and servt."

In her will Eleanor Stuart, the widow of Archibald Stuart, bequeathed the gong to the Town of Staunton.

In his later years Judge Stuart presented a venerable image of the Fathers of the Republic. His person to the last was erect. He was upward of 6' 3" in height, broad, and muscular, and dignified in manner and appearance. His hair, which in youth was black, was white as snow. But his dark hazel eyes were still bright, and the grave aspect of his face was that of one who had fulfilled the arduous duties of lawyer, legislator and judge for almost half a century. Until his death he maintained the style of dress of the Revolutionary era. His hair was worn combed back from his face, and tied in a long queue in the back, and he wore short breeches and fair top boots.

When he visited the hall of the Constitutional Convention of 1829-30 and took the seat allotted to the judges by the courtesy of the House, he observed with interest the representatives of a new generation about to frame a new system of government for his beloved Commonwealth. But he could not know the tender

regard with which he was beheld as one of the five survivors of that illustrious band which composed the Convention of 1788.

Judge Stuart died at the age of 75 on the 11th day of July 1832, and is buried in Trinity Church Yard in Staunton. As the epitaph on his tombstone truly says,

“He merits the tribute of grateful remembrance, having performed well his part in life. When a young man he fought for his country in the war which achieved her independence, and in mature years he contributed in Convention to confirm her liberties by the adoption of her national Constitution. He was distinguished as an able lawyer, wise counselor and upright and learned judge. For he was true to himself, his country and his friends.”

Copy of a sketch of John Coalter in his own hand writing.

Born on Walker's Creek, Rockbridge Co. Va., August 20th, 1769. Died at his home "Chatham" opposite Fredericksburg, Va., Feb. 2nd, 1838. Aged 68 years, 5mos and 13 days.

My father, Michael Coalter, was a farmer in moderate circumstances, and when I was born resided on Walker's Creek, now in Rockbridge Co. which Creek took its name from the brother of my maternal grandmother, and their families who were settled upon it.

I was born on the 20th of August 1769, being the 4th child & 4 were born afterwards, so that there were 8 in Family — 4 brothers, & 4 sisters.

My mother from my earliest recollection was weak and sickly, but was confined principally to her bed for the last two or three years of her life. I lost her when I was about 13 or 14 years of age. She was a most pious and and exemplary woman, of mind, engaging manners, and possessed a warm and affectionate heart, and altho' I was then nearly as rough & wild as my Brother Bruin of the Mountain, I believe I was a great favorite with her.

The country which we inhabited was settled by people as near as can well be imagined of the same grade, all owning small farms, which they and their Families were obliged to clear & to cultivate, with few slaves to assist them, but frequently aided by convict or indented servants of which many, during those days, were brought from the mother country.

My father had some of these servants, and finally two or three slaves, who together with his children, as they grew up, assisted him on his farm; on which he was a skilfull, industrious and daily labourer himself.

He was a man of good natural understanding, a considerable mechanical genius, and had as good an English education as could be expected in so wild a Country. My maternal grandfather as also my Grandmother's Brothers had received pretty good english educations, & took much pride in providing and distributing useful books; and consequently useful knowledge was perhaps more cultivated in that neighborhood than could be ex-

pected in so wild and sequestered a spot. It was however a rude cultivation, without producing any external polish of education; tho' the precious pearl which was deposited within, a pure, honorable and manly heart, was there to be found.

Such was my situation in the early period of life, & such were the Friends I revered and looked up to.

The Fathers of Families in those days shortly before & during the revolutionary war were frequently called on to perform military duty either against the Indians to the West, or the British to the East, & consequently their children, tho' young, were much engaged in the business of the Farm. My Father had his share of those toils and perils, & his children were consequently kept more closely to their work on the Farm. In addition to less distant excursions he was in the Campaign of (September) 1774 against the Indians; and when their Camp at Point Pleasant, Mouth of Gt. Kanawha, was surprised at sunrise by a vast army of Savages rushing with horrible yells on their devoted victims, he was one of a few hundred volunteers, who turned out under the brave but unfortunate Lewis, met them within a short distance of the Camp, & altho' their gallant commander fell at the first fire, yet each soldier took command of himself, and under his commander's last dying order, which was to fight on, not minding him, for he was dead, they did so, until sunset, when the Indians were finally obliged to retreat. He was also in several campaigns against the British; was in one or two engagements, and I think I have heard him particularly speak of one at Jamestown, in which he escaped narrowly from a discharge of grape, which flew about him like hail, and finally secured himself from pursuit of a Dragoon with an infantry man behind him, by turning and shooting them both down. In short he, I believe, with cool and intrepid bravery always performed his own tour of duty in the field, leaving his sons at home, the oldest of whom was not on the muster roll, to work the farm.

During this time he removed from Walker's Creek to a plantation he purchased 7 miles above Staunton; a valuable Farm, but with a small indifferent house, no barn or out houses, & almost entirely in woods. This was perhaps about the year 1778. Here houses were to build and land to open. I was beginning to be able to work. I was strong and healthy, more so than my elder Brothers, both of whom were sickly, — one, your uncle David, much afflicted with Rheumatism, until he settled in South Carolina. Your uncle James was never healthy. I was therefore

looked upon as the Farmer, & future prop of the Family.

During this period, & until I was 13 or 14 years of age there was little chance or time for my education. In Winter I went to school, and in the Winter nights, when the others were at work, some mending or making shoes — harness for horses &c, &c, another would be reading or working a sum in Arithmetic. In this way my elder Brothers taught me the first 4 rules in Arithmetic, and practiced me so well in them by puzzling questions, that when I came to study it more regularly at School I could keep up with a class all of whom had been further & several of whom had taught it.

Altho' I was not considered lazy on the farm but rather the reverse, yet I had such a desire to go to school & acquire a liberal education, that I thought of nothing else, & scarcely talked of anything else, as I have been told by the servants with whom I worked; and I well recollect that it was my daily occupation when I came in from work to kneel down before my Mother's bed and beg her to entreat my Father to send me to school in the neighborhood. But how could he spare me from the Farm, for a long time, was his reply. At length my importunity prevailed, & with more pride and joy than I can describe, I was permitted to go to School. I was then about 13 or 14 years of age.

My Father's house being small & the family large, and it being the Winter season, & in those days a great deal was to be done by the scholar at night, to effect which I went to bed at dark, and when the family went to bed, seldom before 10 or 11, it was enjoined on them to wake me up, which was regularly done, & I then went to work. This school however soon broke up, & I then went to one at New Providence meeting house, near my Grandfather Coalter's where I remained 2 or 3 years — —after that I went about a year to Parson Scott, in Augusta, & spent a part of a year with my valued friend, relation and fellow student James Moore, at home partly at my Father's & and partly at his on Walker's creek, reviewing what we had learnt.

During this time I had acquired a tolerable knowledge of Latin & Greek — something of Geography, Astronomy, Logic, Arithmetic, Mathematica as far as Euclid's elements, navigation, surveying &c, and was beginning to learn French, but never had time and opportunity to pursue it. This brings me to my 18th year in which I set out to seek my fortune, or rather to seek employment as a teacher that I might make some money to enable me to go to College.

Some further account of John Coalter.

Copied from a M. S. written by his daughter
Elizabeth Tucker Bryan

I have often thought that I would note down for my children and my Brother's children something of their Grandfather's history. He was born in August (20th) 1769 in Rockbridge Co. (then Augusta) on Walker's Creek at the foot of the Jump Mountain. His father had 8 children, 4 sons and 4 daughters. One son David, who married, and settled in S. Carolina, and afterwards moved to Missouri, and was the father of Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Means, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Bates, General John D. Coalter and Dr. Beverley Coalter. Two daughters, Mrs. (Jane) Naylor and Mrs. (Elizabeth) McPheeters, mother of Dr. James Augustus McPheeters of Natchez) were older than my father. The other children, James and Micajah, who both died unmarried, and Peggy and Polly (the former married Mr. Ward of Kentucky, and the latter my mother's brother, B. Tucker) were younger.

My father's mother was Elizabeth Moore. For an account of the Moore family see Virginia Historical Register. She died of consumption, when my father was not grown. She was a pious woman. Neat and thrifty and well suited to be the wife of a poor man with a large family of children. Her mother was a woman of great Piety and firmness. She gave calm and considerate directions for her funeral, and was found dead with her hand on her own eye lids. It is said that Gen'l Geo. Washington closed his own eyes. My Grandfather, Michael Coalter, was a brave and sensible man. Once on a hunting expedition he was bitten on the thick part of the leg by a Rattle Snake. He was alone and far from home. He instantly cut out the part with his knife and applied the actual cautery from his hunting fire — using a coal. He then returned home and felt no harm from the Poison.

On another occasion, a neighbor having had both legs and an arm broken by the falling of a tree, my Grandfather (their being no Surgeons in that wild country) cut off the broken limbs with a common knife and Saw and dressed them and saved the man's life, tho' it was in August that the accident happened. The children of this family were trained to habits of industry and economy, which so far as I have been able to trace them,

followed them thro' life. My father received as good an education as the schools of the valley country at that time afforded, learning Latin and a little Greek and Mathematicks from Parson Brown. At eighteen years of age he left his father's house-dressed in plainhome-spun, with an indifferent horse and saddle and five guineas in his pocket. This was his start in the world. His aim was to get to Petersburg where he had a distant Relation with whom he wished to study Medicine. This was Dr. Hall of Petersburg. In passing thro' Richmond, his interest and curiosity were much roused by the debates in the Legislature which he attended daily till his money, husbanded with the utmost care, for he allowed himself nothing to eat but bread and a mug of cider. (tho' he took good care of his horse, who, he said could not feed, as he did on the debates) was gone or nearly so. Only once did he break thro' his rule, and then on walking thro' the Market one morning, he saw an old Woman with a table before her, on which there was something so savory that he asked her what she would charge him for a breakfast. She said nine pence, and he ate it with her. He was always out at mealtimes, and only went to his lodging house at night. It was a small house on Bacon Quarter branch. On reaching Petersburg Dr. Hall dissuaded my father from studing medicine and told him that he knew a gentleman at that time in want of a teacher for small children, who was Lawyer and with whom he could study the Law. This was my Grandfather St. George Tucker. With him my father engaged, and he became the teacher of my Mother, then between 8 and 9 years old, and her 2 brothers Henry and Beverly Tucker. My Father could not have fallen into better hands. My Grandfather, Mr. Tucker, was a Bermudian. His Father Henry Tucker of Port Royal on the Island of Bermuda was (according to the account that I received from my uncle, Mr. John Randolph, who had spent some months (I think 2 years) in Bermuda, at his house and under his care) a most perfect Gentleman, and a man of cultivated mind and Literary taste. He had several Sons and 2 daughters, all distinguished for intelligence, goodness of natural disposition and a sort of native taste and refinement. My Grandfather was the youngest child, and came to this country at the age of 18 to be educated at William & Mary College. His Brother, Dr. Thomas Tudor Tucker had, preceded him and settled in Charleston S. C. He was made Treasurer of the U. S. by Gen'l Geo. Washington when he was made President, and continued in that office till his death, which took place in 1828 — a few

months before the close of J. Q. Adams' administration. Changes, and "Rotation in Office" had not then become the order of the day. But to return. My Grandfather was of warm temper and lively affections, highly cultivated mind, refined taste, studious habits, — a thorough Gentleman of the old School. Brave and chivalrous, to women courteous and gentle in the extreme, most liberal as a Master and as liberal to the poor as a man could be. In his early days the fashion of the times and perhaps his English training (for the English are more strict with the young than Americans) had made him, as I have been told, a rigid parent (tho' at the same time a devoted one) but in my day it was not so. I think of him squeezing himself into my Baby house to "Shoun" (sit down) with me", Standing in the corner with his face to the wall; because he had affronted me, calling my Mammy "Black", to tease me. Holding me up on his head to the top of the press to get peaches which he had put there for me. Singing and teaching my sister and myself to dance in the back passage at Williamsburg — and as I grew up, as being the most loving and tender parent to me. In the society of such a man my Father could not but improve. He lived with him several years. Studying his profession and teaching the children that I have named. And here I would say Chancellor Wythe lived at this time in Williamsburg (to which place my Grandfather removed at the death of my Grandmother), which occurred (January 18, 1788) soon after my father went to live with him) and I have heard my father say was never too busy to answer any question on which he would consult him, always kindly inviting him to come to him for assistance in his studies, tho' laboriously engaged in the duties of his calling and often obliged to deny those who only visited him for pleasure. There was a young woman living with my Grandfather, named Maria Rhind. She had been brought up by my Grandmother, having been early left an Orphan. She was poor. As soon as my father got his licence to practice the Law they were married and went to Staunton. They lived in a small house and had no servant but a half grown white girl, who was bound to them. My father worked hard. His wife was cheerful, good tempered, industrious and well taught. They lived very plainly but happily. When living at Chatham, one night my father was reading the Story of some man who had risen from small beginnings to wealth, and who was contrasting the quiet of his poor home with the bustle and fatigue of his higher position. I saw my father wipe his eyes, and asked what he was read-

ing. He told me, and then drew such a picture of the wife of his poverty and his youth as warmed my heart to her and I resolved to remember her and to transmit her name to my children. She died in one year after her marriage at the birth of her first child (born dead) and is buried in the Epis. grave yard Staunton. After the death of his wife my father quietly and industriously pursued his profession and grew in the confidence of all who know him. After the lapse of 4 years he returned to Williamsburg — courted and married a young lady of very superior attainments. She was the daughter of Mrs. Davenport whose early history full of romantick incidents has furnished stories of my children, who, like their Mother, can never forget Grandmama Davenport. This young lady and her Mother returned to Staunton with my Father. She only lived a little more than a year. Her Mother lived with my Father as his Mother till her death Jan. 8th., 1816. Thus was my father made a second time a widower at 28 years of age. Again he remained single 4 years, and then going back to the place where all of his strongest attachments seemed to have formed, he married my Mother June 5th, 1802. In some respects his union with her was most happy. She was affectionate and gay in her temper, witty, clever, of a most noble nature. "Your mother seemed incapable of a mean thought. She was the noblest woman I ever knew", said my father's niece, Mrs. Harper, to me, and she knew her well; but her health was always bad, and for many years hopelessly bad. By this time, from industry and uprightness my father had won his way to comfort, independence and high respectability in his profession. He was first made Circuit Judge, and then in the winter of '11-12, Judge of the Court of Appeals. He spared no expense or trouble for my Mother's restoration. At home she had every comfort and indulgence, every winter he brought her to the lower country, the Mountain climate being too severe and in the heat of Summer carried her to the Springs — himself the most tender and untiring of nurses. All was in vain. Sep. 12th, 1813 she died at the Red Sulphur Springs in Monroe county. Her remains were brought back to Staunton and lie in the Churchyard at the side of the Orphan reared by her Mother and who took care of her after her Mother's death. At her feet rest the remains of my only Sister Frances Lelia, who died aged 18 - Aug. 11, 1821. Her death had left me very desolate. "We had still slept together — Rose at an instant, learned, played, ate together; and where so e'er we went, like Juno's Swans, still we went coupled and in-

seperable.". She was of a grave and sensitive nature — prudent and studious and wise beyond her years. Such a friend was a great blessing to one of my volatile nature — and her love for me and mine for her was so great that it seemed that we were but one, tho' of 2 natures which alternately enlivened and controlled each other. I was very ignorant on the subject of Religion. My Mother was a true Christian but died when I was 8 years old-Grandma Davenport when I was but little older. My Sister however had — thanks be to God — been found out I truly believe by his Spirit and enabled to put forth a living faith in her Saviour. I remember much, which I did not then understand, which leads me to think so.

OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

The "Old Homes of Augusta County" photography project of the Augusta County Historical Society is progressing satisfactorily.

Under the direction of J. B. Yount III and Mrs. William Bushman, co-chairman, the lists locating the many old homes of the county have been co-ordinated and assignments made to the volunteer photographers. Those who volunteered to photograph the homes are William B. Alwood III, William H. Bushman, Fontaine McPherson, George Sproul, Ronald Steffey, and George Yarrow.

The homes reported to the committee have been separated into lists according to the magisterial districts of Augusta County in which each is located. Each photographer has been assigned a specific district.

Excellent publicity was provided this summer by the "Staunton Leader" and the Waynesboro "News Virginian. This publicity has acquainted the people of the entire county with the project so that the photographers are welcomed when they call on the home owners.

It is hoped that the work will be completed by spring, 1969, or at the latest, summer, 1969.

The committee will still welcome the addition of homes to the list which have not been reported to date.

“WALNUT GROVE,” BIRTHPLACE OF JUDGE ARCHIBALD STUART, IN LATER YEARS.

by Gladys B. Clem

The substantial brick dwelling, known as “Walnut Grove,” in the southwest area of Waynesboro on the Old Greenville Road (now Rt. 340), is probably little changed from the time when Judge Archibald Stuart was born there March 19, 1757.

As a boy, he and his three younger brothers grew up at “Walnut Grove”, which was considered to be one of the best estates in the county at that time. Their grandfather, the immigrant Archibald Stuart, with the usual Scottish acumen, had acquired a tract of 500 acres of the Beverley Grant in 1751, the home farm being a part of the tract.

The boys found their amusement in riding, fishing and hunting, and with plenty of space to roam, their boyhood passed all too quickly. Even the ride over to Liberty Hall Academy, where they attended school, was a pleasure for the most part.

With the decision to become a lawyer firmly fixed in his mind, young Archibald Stuart left home one autumn morning of 1778 for Williamsburg, where he would attend William and Mary College for the next three years. From that time on, fate decreed that he would not only actively participate in establishing his country's freedom but would also play a prominent part in the framing of both state and federal laws of the new government.

“Walnut Grove” remained in the Stuart's ownership for many years. In 1867 it was acquired by Capt. G. Julian Pratt, a popular and much loved officer of the Confederacy. Capt. Pratt, who besides farming, specialized in the breeding of fine stock. His dairy herd was outstanding in its excellence and for many years supplied much of the milk and dairy products to an earlier generation of Waynesboro citizens.

Many may recall the Methodist Sunday School picnics that annually took place in “Pratt's Woods”, an event anticipated by every youngster in town, regardless of church affiliations. One especially large oak was always used for the rope swing, while Silver Creek at the foot of the hill, with its minnows, crawfish

and tadpoles was always popular with the wading set.

A visit to “Pratt's” was a happy experience — no matter whether one was 6 or 60. Both Capt. and Mrs. Pratt exemplified an old fashioned hospitality that gained and attracted a host of friends through the county and state.

Pages of history could be written from the doorstep of this old dwelling. Just a short distance away the last considerable battle of the Civil War in the Valley took place on March 3, 1865. It was here that Lieut. Col. William H. Harmon was killed during the engagement. And in September of the same year Gen. Robert E. Lee, on “Traveler” rode past on his way to Lexington to assume his duties as President of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

In recent years much of the farm acreage has been converted to residential use. But the old home-fortunately-is being restored according to well planned and coordinated detail.

The century or more of winter storms have given the brick a tint of soft rose and mauve, combined. The hand work of its early artisans has proven their superior workmanship by its very durability. So little of it has changed through the years. The morning sun still streams through the deep set windows, forming the same squared shadows on the wide floor boards. It is a pleasurable thought to know the panelling over the high mantels, the chair rails, the closed stairs and even the narrow doorways are all being restored to their original and useful beauty by an appreciative owner.

200 YEARS AGO
SOME AUGUSTA COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS
OF 1768

At a Vestry for Augusta Parish, November 18, 1768 a parish levy was made to:

Rev. John Jones for his sallery for the present year £ 50 — 1600 bbls. tobacco $\frac{3}{4}$ shilling a pound.

William Waterson for nursing and cloathing a child for seven months and a half £ 5.15.

Charles Null for attending Hanah Ashbrook in her sickness and for burying her £ 1.15.

Daniel Perse for Taking Care of the poor at the poor house for 8 months £ 23 — 6-8.

Edward Sampson for being Reader £ 3.00

Paid to Geo. and Sampson Matthews, Merchants, by Augusta Parish: To 1 Blanket for a coat for Daniel Cummings £ 12-12

One weight Brown sugar for Mr. Griffith when sick £ 10-10

For 4 yda. linen for a sheet to (wrap) Griffith's corps £12.0

50 nails for Coffin at 7 pence

To 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. wine for the funeral 3/9. To $\frac{1}{2}$ Bu. Potatoes 4-9sh.

To John Hutcheson for making a coffin for Mr. Griffin £ 5

To George Brian for malling rails 12sh. 7 pence.

Duffle Blanket for Geo. Brian when Deliourse in Prision £ 15

Paid John Hutcheson for a wooden leg for Sylvester Murphy £ 7.00

Walter Power informs the Court that Isobel and Alexander Angely, children of Peter Angeley were bound to him in March of 1765, the girl for 4 years and the boy for 6 years, but their indentures have been stolen

James Murdock bound over for insulting Sampson Matthews in his office.

1 panther skin attached.

Called Court for examination of Robt. McMahon, charged with murder of Robt. Reaburn. Sent to Williamsburg for trial.

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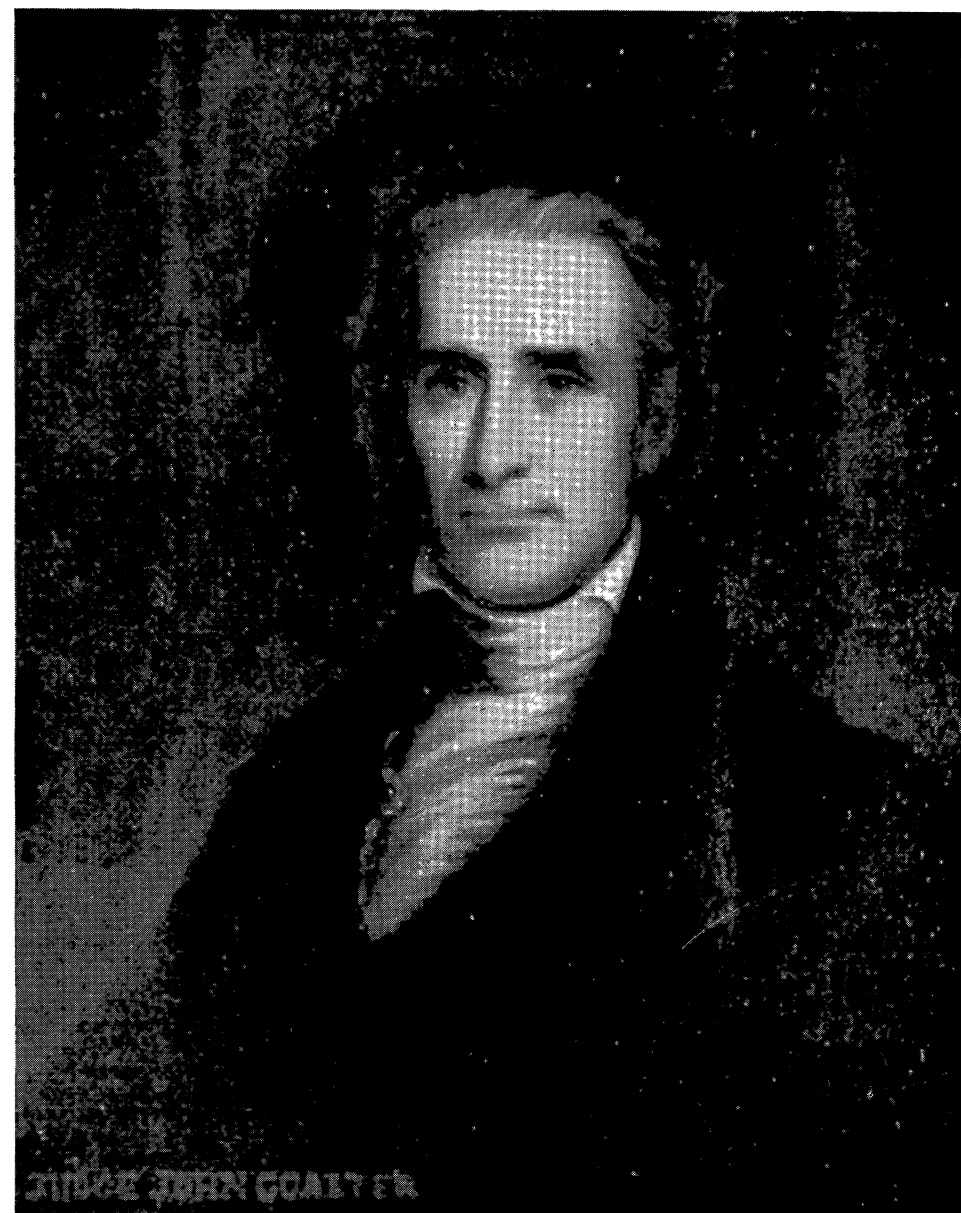
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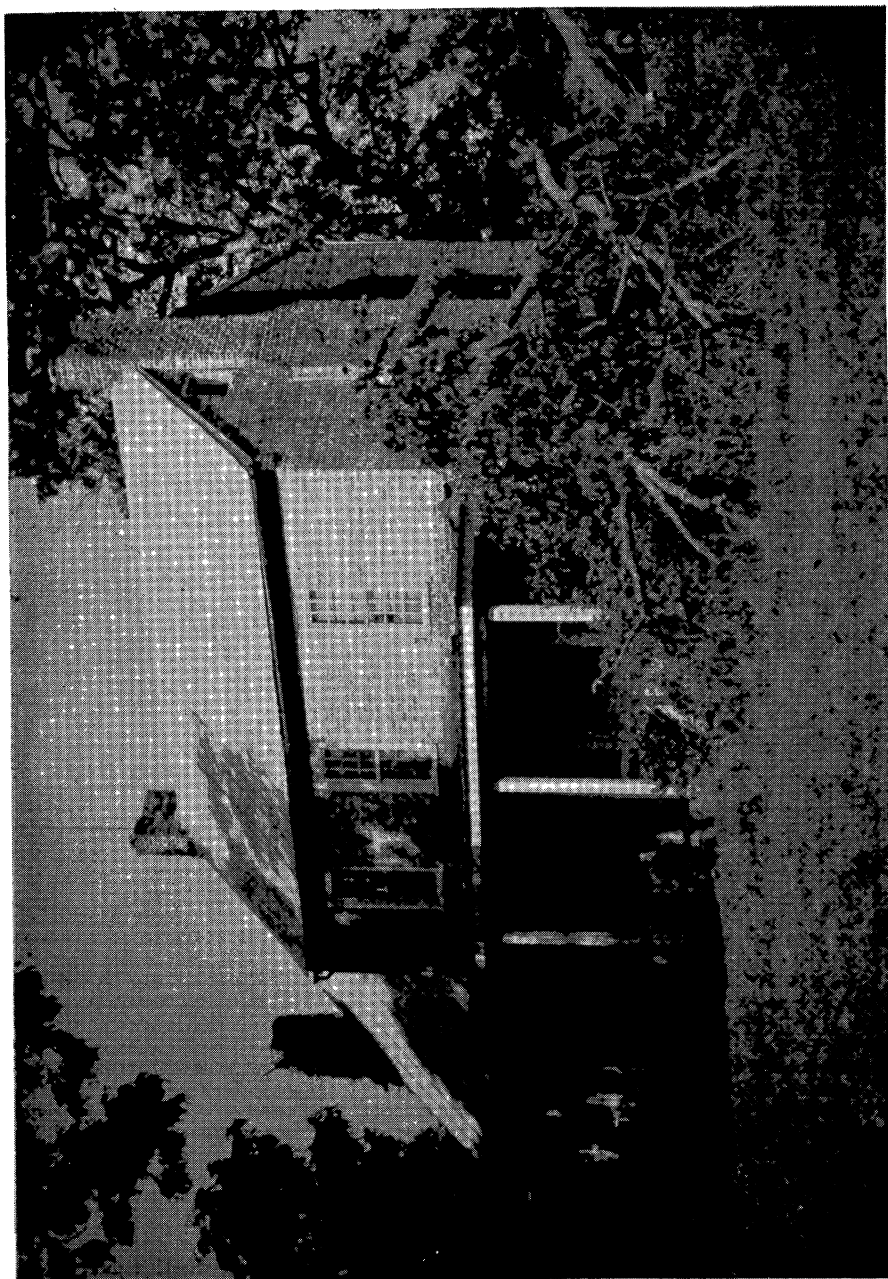
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead Sherwood Lane Staunton, Va.	Misses Annie Lee, Estelle & Frances Crawford 1023 N. Augusta St. Staunton, Va.
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Mr. & Mrs. John T. Beck 155 N. Coalter St. Staunton, Va.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Craig Effinger 158 Woodland Drive Staunton, Va.
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Mr. & Mrs. George V. Bernard 29 Fallon St. Staunton, Va.	Col. & Mrs. William L. Gardner 20 Orchard Rd. Staunton, Va.
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Mr. & Mrs. William Bushman 12 Taylor St. Staunton, Va.	Mr. & Mrs. Neal S. Goodloe 52 Ridgeview Rd. Staunton, Va.
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Catlett 410 Somerset Ave. Richmond, Va.	Dr. & Mrs. John H. Guss 22 Orchard Rd. Staunton, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. C. Raymond Chambers 687 E. Beverley St. Staunton, Va.	Mr. & Mrs. John S. Hale 624 Fraser Lane Staunton, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. George Moffett Cochran 219 Williams St. Staunton, Va.	

*Deceased



Judge John Coalter served as Judge in Court of Appeals of Virginia from 1811-1831.

—by Dementi Studio
Richmond, Virginia



"Walnut Grove" Farm, Waynesboro, Virginia.
Birthplace of Judge Archibald Stuart.
In later years familiarly known as the Pratt Farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Fritz C. Hamer
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Staunton, Va.

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H. Henderson Hevener
"Heverston Farm", Rt. 2
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Kelley
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